

A Handbook of Psychology and Mental Disease for use in training schools for attendants and nurses and in medical classes, and as a ready reference for the practitioner. By C. B. Burr, M. D., Medical Director of Oak Grove Hospital (Flint, Mich.) for Mental and Nervous Diseases, etc., etc. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged with illustrations. Philadelphia, F. A. Davis Company, Publishers. 1914. Price \$1.00.

While the usual small medical book is, as a rule, seldom worthy of much consideration, particularly when an entire specialty is included in its scope, an exception must be made in favor of this book of Doctor Burr's. Without analyzing its contents it will suffice to say that it bears the same relation to the large and more exhaustive works that the well-packed suitcase of the experienced traveler bears to the enormous trunks of a tourist on his first trip. Psychology and insanity are excellently analyzed, classified and discussed in the 200 pages of text in such a way as to appeal to the student and to the man who takes up the specialty of the care of the insane. The section on the treatment of insane patients is very valuable and conforms with the best modern and humane ideas.

G. H. T.

INFECTION AND RESISTANCE.

An exposition of the biological phenomena underlying the occurrence of infection and recovery of the animal body from infectious disease by Hans Zinsser, Professor of Bacteriology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, with a chapter on "Colloids and Colloidal Reaction" by Professor Stewart W. Young of Stanford University. New York. The Macmillan Co., 1914.

With his book on "Infection and Resistance," Zinsser fills a distinct want in American medical literature. There is no question that the modern physician must be well informed in this subject, if he wishes to deal intelligently with the many problems presented to him by infectious disease, and still there is not available in English a treatise dealing with these problems thoroughly and exhaustively from the point of view of one who has an intimate personal knowledge of the underlying facts. The author has succeeded in presenting a very difficult subject in an uncommonly clear and precise manner and it is to be hoped that many medical students for whom this book is primarily written will accept it as a reliable and at the same time most interesting guide in what at first glance must appear to their untrained eyes as a wilderness indeed. Moreover many physicians—clinicians as well as workers in bacteriology and allied fields—will be glad to consult the pages of Dr. Zinsser's excellent book on moot questions and will receive new insight into these fascinating problems and inspirations to new productive work along these lines. Professor Young's chapter on colloids is also most interesting and suggestive.

W. O.

General Medicine. Practical Medicine Series. 1914. Vol. VI. Edited by Frank Billings and J. H. Salisbury. Published by the Year Book Publishers. 1914. Price. \$1.50.

These little books serve a very useful purpose in giving the busy practitioner a digest of articles which have appeared in medical journals for the preceding year. In two or three hours a man can get a good idea of the latest views in any one branch of medicine. About the only criticism we would suggest is that more care be taken in the choice of articles to be abstracted and that more of the foreign literature be used. For instance, after our most successful clinicians have for years been showing that the only way to break the vicious circle of dilatation of the stomach, self-

starvation, etc., is by overfeeding, an article is abstracted—as advanced and up-to-date—in which the author advocates gastric lavage and starvation again. This research was based on six cases. A slight elevation of the lower border of her stomach may or may not be a comfort to the poor woman but we do not see how it can give her renewed strength to go back and stand behind a counter or teach school all day. Those who elect to teach their fellow practitioners should guard them from false or ignorant prophets.

The large proportion of this volume is made up of abstracts from the Journal of the American Medical Association, a magazine which has already been seen by most of the men who are sufficiently concerned with the state of their medical education to buy these books. Very few of us, however, know what we should about the best that is issuing from the laboratories and clinics of Europe.

W. C. A.

Serology of Nervous and Mental Diseases. By D. M. Kaplan, Director of Clinical and Research Laboratories, New York Neurological Institute. W. B. Saunders & Co., Philadelphia.

With the thoroughness and unbiased attitude of a true scientist, Kaplan has given to the profession a book of inestimable value, at this time. The subject is naturally divided into four parts. Part 1 gives in detail the general consideration of the spinal fluid. Here the author, because of his large experience, has been able to simplify the examination for proteid content of the spinal fluid by presenting a very simple method of his own, which the reviewer has used to a considerable extent. Kaplan's idea is to make the study of the spinal fluid so standardized that the general practitioner will look to the serologist for data which will be of inestimable value to him in diagnosis.

The Wassermann reaction and its various modifications are next taken up with the result that though he deprecates the use of methods which allow of "limits of errors," he states that "the chief function of the laboratory worker is not so much to detect every syphilitic, but to protect the non-luetic individual from a wrong diagnosis and useless treatment. He should consider himself, as expert, only when the number of positive reports on non-luetic sera approaches the zero mark and not when his results with positive material approach the 100 per cent. efficiency mark." I believe all clinicians should be wary of the "unerring" serologist.

Part 2 is an exposition of the serology of non-luetic nervous and mental diseases. As in Part 3 each disease is considered with especial reference to the cerebrospinal fluid findings and its serological formula. The author finds himself frequently called on to decide on the coexistence of tabes with other non-luetic diseases, e. g., multiple neuritis. The absence of a proper formula enables him to reach a decision which is usually finally substantiated.

Part 3 includes the serology of syphilitic nervous and mental diseases—a very important and well-presented section. Here the different luetic disorders of the brain and cord are taken up with differential diagnoses—a no mean feat for a serologist. Cases are followed to show the influence of therapy on the serological findings. Part 4 is a general consideration of the therapeutic use of salvarsan with many annotations from the author's personal experience with the drug.

The work as a whole finds a ready place with the neurologist and psychiatrist and should be a constant companion of the general practitioner, who will get much more out of his cases by a careful perusal of this book. Many excellent colored photographs adorn the work. An excellent bibliography, covering 37 pages, completes the volume.

J. M. WOLFSOHN.